

New-York Daily Tribune

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1864.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

We print elsewhere, from Richmond papers of the 18th and 19th, some interesting news which has not been reached us. We fear that skeptical readers may not put full faith in some of the statements; but then the high-toned chivalry of the South would not condescend to lie, not even to keep up the spirit of their fighting white trash—of course not. According to these accounts the several contests of Lee with Grant have been a series of unbroken successes for the Confederate army; the Northern troops have been several times successfully attacked, guns and prisoners taken, while their attacks have in every instance been "heavily repulsed with loss." The authors of this good news have singularly forgotten to state that Lee has whipped Grant all the way from the Rapidan to the North Anna; we in the North call such movements retreats, but then we are only ignorant mudsills, and one Southerner is equal to five Yankees (in lying, we admit). Grant Butler has been driven to his den on the James; Sherman has been "repulsed with heavy loss" ever so many times; and here is another omission—they do not say that Johnston has whipped Sherman forward from Chickamauga to Rome. Then they have glorious news from the West; General Banks has been surrounded and his whole army has surrendered; and the story about Steele's surrender is also true in the main; and Sigel has been cankerously chewed up in West Virginia, and would have been quite captured, but his cavalry absurdly interfered, and so the capture did not amount to much. And that if they can only smash Grant's army the fighting power of the United States is ended; "if we can conquer now, and God is giving us the promise of it, our work is done;" and every man who can fight must fight, and those who cannot must help other ways; and the women and children must go to praying right off, and beseege the Throne of Heaven night and day until the smiles of the God of Mercy and Justice shall beam over a new empire founded upon the sweat and groans and blood of men and women in chains, on the auction block, under the lash of the overseer, howling in agony in the torture pen, or flying in terror from the fangs of the bloodhound and the more brutal outrages of the gentle chivalry of the South. Indeed, their enormous lying, and their canting, hypocritical appeals to God on Heaven, are alike characteristic of their audacious treason.

Advices from North Carolina state that Surgeon H. J. Menninger of the 2d N. C. (loyal) Volunteers has been detailed on special duty as Surgeon-in-Chief, with several Assistant Surgeons to assist him. Surgeon Hand, Medical Director, whose administration of affairs has been crowned with such success, has nearly relieved the Department of the small-pox. Gen. Harland has been assigned to the command of the Sub-District of Newbern. Dr. Page of the Sanitary Commission has started several vegetable gardens for the use of the hospitals and soldiers in camp. Major H. T. Lawson, 2d Mass. Heavy Artillery, has been appointed Provost-Marshal of Newbern. The poor Union refugees from Plymouth and Washington, whose homes were burned over their heads, are at Newbern in great numbers, in a very destitute condition. They are mostly women and children, left without bedding or proper clothing, who are worthy objects of Christian charity.

The 1st Massachusetts Regiment, Col. McLaughlin, arrived last evening en route home, their term of three years' service having expired. They number 403 men, rank and file. The regiment was quartered last night in the Park Barracks, where the privates were provided with refreshments by the New-England Soldiers' Relief Association. The officers partook of a collation at the Astor House by invitation of Mr. Stetson. The command will leave for Boston this afternoon by the Fall River boat. The Sons of New-England will assemble at the Astor House at 3 p. m. to escort the regiment to Pier No. 3, North River. A full attendance is expected. The regiment has participated in all the recent battles with Gen. Grant's army, in which their loss has been 72 men killed, wounded, and missing.

Gov. Seymour has directed the District-Attorney of this city to procure indictments against all persons concerned in the suppression of *The World* and *The Journal of Commerce*. We presume, of course, that this includes the indictment of Howard, the author, and Mallon, the copier, of the *Forged Proclamation*, as that was the prime cause of the suppression of the journals named.

The *North Carolina Times* of the 21st is received. There is nothing very new in it. The Rebels in Little Washington set fire to the town on the 11th, destroying all but about twenty houses, and robbed all the women and children in the place.

The Rebel steamer *Florida* sailed from Bermuda on the 14th, after landing an officer who was sick, and stood to the northward. She reported having burned a New-York ship from Calico about three weeks previous.

A dispatch from Warrensburg, Mo., intimates that Quantrell was probably killed in a skirmish in Jackson County. The statement is vague, and needs evidence of truth.

CONGRESS.

SENATE, May 23.—A communication was received from the Secretary of War, in answer to a resolution of the Senate, transmitting a list of the officers in the army, their record, &c. The bill in relation to naval supplies, which was reported upon adversely by the Naval Committee, was taken up. Mr. Grimes proceeded to defend the bill against the report of the Naval Committee. Others participated in the discussion but no vote was taken. Mr. Morgan introduced a bill that no such act for enrolling and calling out the national forces, and acts amendatory thereof, as authorize the discharge of any person from military service by reason of the payment of \$300 for the procuration of a substitute or otherwise, be repealed; Provided that nothing contained in this act shall be construed to alter the provisions of the existing laws relative to persons actually furnishing substitutes. The Pacific Railroad bill was then taken up, and after a brief discussion, was passed. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Dawes reported a resolution that Messrs. Chandler, Sagar and Kitchin, whose claims to seats from Virginia have been rejected, be allowed mileage for one session, and monthly pay till the passage of the resolutions in their respective cases. Mr. Chandler's name was stricken out. The resolution, as thus amended, was adopted. On motion of Mr. Coffroth it was resolved that, the Senate concurring, both Houses adjourn the session on the 6th of June at noon. Mr. Grinnell offered a resolution requesting the President to inform the House whether by order of the Government *The World* and *Journal of Commerce* of New-York were suspended, and if so, such order and proceeding be communicated. An objection being made, the resolution lies over. On motion of Mr. Arnold a resolution was introduced, which was adopted, instructing the Committee of the Judiciary to inquire whether any and what legislation is necessary to punish the forgery and publication of official documents, and also what legislation is necessary to punish those who, through the press or otherwise give information, aid and comfort to the Rebels. Mr. Pruyn asked leave, on behalf of his friends of the New-York delegation, to offer a resolution, that the conduct of the Executive authority of the Government in closing the offices and suppressing the publication of *The World* and *Journal of Commerce* newspapers in the City of New-York, under the circumstances which have been placed before the public, was an act unwarranted in itself, dangerous to the cause of the Union, in violation of the Constitution, and subversive of the principles of civil liberty, and as such is hereby censured by this House. Objection being made, Mr. Pruyn moved a suspension of the rules in order that he might introduce

the resolution, but the question was decided in the negative by the following vote: Yeas, 54; Nays, 79. Stevens reported the joint explanatory resolution, which was passed, providing that the late law for the temporary increase in duties on imports shall take effect on the 30th instead of the 29th of April. All duties improperly paid to be refunded. Mr. Stevens reported a bill to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from Lake Superior to Puget's Sound, by the northern route. Ordered to be printed and recommitted to the House. Considered various Senate amendments to the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill. Adjourned.

GENERAL NEWS.

The United States schooner *Henry James*, L. B. King, Acting Ensign Commanding, arrived at this port on Monday in twelve days from Pensacola. This vessel was one of Commodore Porter's mortar fleet, and has been in commission twenty-eight months. She participated in the attack on Forts Jackson and St. Philip, and afterward, unassisted, captured Sabine Pass, Texas. She also took part in the first attack on Vicksburg, Miss., and was one of the fleet which compelled the surrender of Port Hudson, La., in July last. She also took a prominent part in the late attack upon Fort Powell, under Admiral Farragut. She has been ordered home because her mortar is too much worn to be serviceable.

The Washington express train which left Jersey City at 7 o'clock on Saturday night was thrown from the track at Dean's Pond, nine miles south of New-Brunswick, in consequence of running over three horses. The engine and tender were thrown into the pond, instantly killing the fireman, Henry Reeves, and the assistant fireman sustained a fracture of the leg. The wheels of the baggage-car were all broken, and about 100 feet of the track was torn up. The passengers and inmates were uninjured. After waiting until morning, by which time another engine had been procured and the track relaid, the train proceeded for Washington.

A banquet was given last evening at the Assembly Rooms by the members of the Caledonian Club in honor of the 75th Highlanders on their return home. After the banquet the Chief of the Club, Geo. Mitchell, esq., read a letter of apology from the Hon. S. Cameron who had promised to be present, and several toasts were proposed and responded to by gentlemen connected with the Club and members and officers of the regiment. A banner was presented to the regiment by the Corporation of New-York.

Fourteen delegates to represent the State of Louisiana in the Baltimore Convention were elected by the State Convention. *The Delta* says the action of the Convention was harmonious, every member endorsing the general policy, both civil and military, of the Administration. They also approved the military and civil career of Gen. Banks, and the policy inaugurated by Gov. Hahn as tending to putting down the Rebellion and for the restoration of the Union.

In the Supreme Court, General Term, yesterday, the writ of certiorari allowed by Justice Barnard in the case of Cooke, the bounty broker, convicted of obtaining money under false pretenses in the Court of General Sessions—came on for argument. The alleged points of error are contained in the charge of the Recorder to the jury on the law in the case. The decision was reserved.

A letter from Fort Monroe of the 21st states that the steamer *Dictator*, from Newbern, and *Hatteras* Inlet, reports that a bottle was picked up off Hatteras, on the 30th, containing a record of the loss of the steamer *Manhattan*, at sea, from Wilmington, N. C., bound to Bermuda. A large lot of cotton was picked up off Hatteras Inlet on the 30th and 31st.

We have received from Virginia, Nevada Territory, copies of *The Daily Old News*, a new Union Journal, and the third or fourth, we believe, now published in that thriving Territory. It is a folio, full of news, editorials, and advertisements.

The large new car-shop of the Central Railroad at West Albany was destroyed by fire before day-light yesterday morning. It is supposed the fire originated in the waste room. The loss is estimated at about \$100,000.

William Aldridge was convicted in the United States Circuit Court, yesterday, of harboring a deserter named Joy, and remanded for sentence this morning.

A man named Daniel Skelly was arrested at Albany on Monday, charged with having shot Bernard Monahan in Brooklyn.

Gold opened at 181½, and sold at the Stock Exchange at 182½. In the afternoon the rate was 184. The market was steady with no particular activity. At the Stock Exchange Government bonds were barely steady. Stocks continue irregular, and there is little disposition shown to operate largely in any direction. Government Securities are firm, and offered very sparingly. Everything paying six per cent and over in the way of a Federal stock is wanted at current rates. In State stocks and railway mortgages very little doing. Bank shares are held above the market, and are offered in trifling lots when offered at all. Coal stocks strong, and few offerings, except the new bituminous companies. Railway shares are generally lower. At the Second Board prices were still dull and lower on most descriptions. Money continues easy, and is pressed upon borrowers on call at 5½ per cent in large amounts.

We have little comment to make on the letters this morning published from our correspondents with Gen. Butler. They show clearly enough that the Rebels have assumed the offensive, that Gen. Butler is within his intrenchments across the Bermuda Hundred peninsula, and that he must be content to maintain himself in that position until Lee is driven to summon a part of Beauregard's forces to his aid.

Dispatches from Admiral Porter announce the escape of his fleet from their Red River confinement, thanks to the engineering genius of Lieut.-Col. BAILEY, Acting Engineer 19th Army Corps, who raised the water of the river by a tree dam six hundred feet long. It is not too much to say that the army and navy both owe their rescue to this one officer.

Gen. Sherman was to resume his march yesterday morning. There is nothing later from Gen. Grant. Interesting particulars of the efforts by the Government to give him all help and support will be found in Mr. Stanton's dispatch.

THE ARGUELLES CASE.

I. All the nations of Christendom (and the Jeff. Davis conspiracy to boot) are now united in condemnation and interdiction of the overseas or African Slave-Trade. By our laws, and those of most civilized nations, it is denounced as Piracy, the most heinous, abhorrent, execrable of felonies.

II. This country has honorably combined with all the great maritime nations of Europe in a league which has for its avowed and sole end the extirpation of this infamous traffic, and has, throughout the last thirty or forty years, spent many millions of dollars and sacrificed many precious lives to secure this end.

III. Spain, through her remaining American possessions, is the only existing refuge of this inhuman trade. Her laws condemn it; her Government has bound itself by treaties to suppress it; yet slaves to the average number of some ten thousand per annum, are still clandestinely shipped from the western coast of Africa and run into one or another of the smaller ports of Cuba, where they are readily smuggled

out of sight among eager, slaveholding planters, through the purchased connivance of corrupt officials. It is currently understood that the Governor General (for the time being) of the island receives a doubleton per head as hush-money for every slave so landed, averaging \$170,000 gross for each year of his administration. And this complicity of Spanish officials, including their chief, has been a subject of frequent and just complaint from the Governments earnestly seeking to extinguish the Slave-Trade.

IV. The late Governor General, Jose Concha, notoriously held at least one hand constantly behind his back for these bribes; his successor in office, Gen. Dulce, endeavors to maintain a better reputation. And so great is the profit on buying slaves in Africa at less than \$50 per head, and selling them in Cuba at \$750, that the trade can never be broken up while it shall continue to be countenanced and connived at by the Spanish officials ruling that island.

V. Late last year, a large British-built steamship was taken to Cadiz, there transferred to Spanish owners, put under the Spanish flag, and cleared for the Spanish island of Fernando Po, on the African coast, ostensibly for lawful commerce. But at Fernando Po she was rapidly cleared of her cargo and crowded with slaves, some twelve hundred in number, with which she made all speed for Cuba, landing them last November on the coast of the district whereof Col. Jose Augustin Arguelles was Lieut. Governor.

VI. Col. Don Jose Augustin Arguelles appears to have had a turn for business which would have distinguished the most unprincipled Yankee ever heard of. Unquestionably, the slave-traders supposed they had "made the thing all right" with him, or they would have landed their cargo in some other district—the range for selection being by no means narrow. But he first cheated them by seizing their negroes and denouncing their entry to the Governor-General, whereby he earned and received a gratuity of fifteen thousand hard dollars. Next, he sold to planters one hundred and forty-one of the negroes at \$700 to \$750 per head, whereby he cleared over \$100,000 more—not greenbacks, but real, hard Spanish dollars. And next he cleared himself, obtaining leave of absence for twenty days in order to visit this city, whither he pretended that he was coming with intent to buy the Spanish journal, *La Cronica*.

VII. Arguelles had covered his tracks pretty well, though not well enough. He had bribed the priest of Colon to sell him the official register of his parish, which he brought away or destroyed, and to substitute for it a forged one, recording the death and burial of the one hundred and forty-one Africans whom he had sold. But he had not been long gone when the fraud was somehow exploded; there was a general row and a diplomatic tangle; the upshot of all which was the tracking him to this city, and his surrender and extradition, by order of President Lincoln and Secretary Seward, by whose direction Marshal Murray arrested and conveyed him to a Spanish vessel in the harbor, which at once put off for Cuba. And there Col. Jose Augustin Arguelles is very certain to be treated to a new and striking lesson in the art of selling (officially) dead negroes at the rate of \$700 to \$750 per head.

—Of course, we are glad the rascal is sure of his deserts, and especially glad that other exotic scoundrels have received a warning that a mere escape to this country will not secure them impunity in their crimes. We have a good many more gentlemen of his class sojourning among us already than we want, and would be happy to see the number safely diminished. And yet—and yet—we should greatly prefer to see these matters regulated by law than by executive dictum. We hold up both hands for a law authorizing the President to extradite and surrender fugitive felons at his discretion; but doing it without law is quite another matter. Does Gov. Seward happen to remember the case of the Bampers?

PROHIBITION OF SLAVEHOLDING IN THE U. S. CHURCH.

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which represents the largest Protestant denomination of this country, passed, on Tuesday, a resolution which will mark a turning point in the history of the relation of the American Churches to Slavery. After a brief, and, as it seems, on the whole, dispassionate discussion, it was resolved, by 204 Yeas to 8 Nays, so to change the "General Rule" as to forbid slaveholding altogether.

The minority consisted of 3 delegates from the West Virginia Conference, 2 from the Kentucky, 2 from the Baltimore, and 1 from the East Baltimore Conference. All the delegates of the Missouri and Arkansas Conferences, as well as the entire delegation of the Philadelphia Conference, which comprises parts of Maryland and Delaware, voted with the majority. So also did the majority of the delegates from the Baltimore and East Baltimore Conferences. The delegates of those Conferences which lie wholly within the Free States showed a very remarkable unanimity in favor of the report, not casting a single vote against it. Most of the speakers of the minority are known as Anti-Slavery men, and announced themselves as such, and they only declared themselves against the measure on the ground of expediency.

In order to become an obligatory law, the resolution just passed must be presented to each Annual Conference, of which there are forty-eight within the boundaries of the United States, and so soon as three-fourths of the members of all the Annual Conferences who may be present and vote thereon shall have concurred, the proposed change takes effect. As the vote of the General Conference indicates, this concurrence of the Annual Conferences is not in the least doubtful. It may possibly be rejected by three, the West Virginia, the Kentucky, and the Baltimore Conferences, and a few votes may be cast against it in two other Border Conferences (East Baltimore and Philadelphia); but all the others will pass it with entire, or nearly entire, unanimity. A year from to-day the vote of all the Annual Conferences will have been ascertained, and then the Methodist Episcopal Church will take her place

at the head of the Anti-Slavery churches of the United States.

The effect of this change upon the Anti-Slavery sentiment of the country cannot fail to be marked. Hitherto only a number of the smaller denominations of the country had taken this position. Thus among the Methodists only the Wesleyans, with a membership of about 21,000, the Free Methodists and the Independent Methodists, two small organizations of recent origin, had excluded slaveholders from their communion, while the Methodist Episcopal Church, with about 900,000 members, only prohibited the buying and selling of slaves, and the Methodist Protestant Church (about 90,000 members) had no general law on the subject of slaveholding. Among the Presbyterians, the United Presbyterians (57,000 members), the Reformed Presbyterians (15,000), and the Free Presbyterian Synod (4,000 members), did not allow slaveholding; while no such prohibition was enforced among the Old-School Presbyterians (300,000 members), the New-School Presbyterians (135,000 members), or the Cumberland Presbyterians (about 103,000 members). Among the other denominations, "the United Brethren in Christ," who number about 100,000 communicants, and the Friends, adhered to a Slavery-forbidding policy, while the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Roman Catholics, the Lutherans, the German and Dutch Reformed, and the Universalists refrained from legislating on the subject.

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church consists only of clerical delegates. But the laity, in this question, are by no means behind the clergy. At a General Convention of Laymen from all parts of the country, which met in the first days of the present week in Philadelphia to memorialize the General Conference for the introduction of lay delegations into the church assemblies, resolutions were introduced in favor of the abolition of Slavery in Church and State, and they passed without a dissenting voice, although many members of the Convention were known to have had heretofore very conservative views on the subject of Slavery.

Now that the most numerous of the American Churches has placed itself at the head of the Anti-Slavery Churches of the country, we may expect that others will speedily follow.

THE KOHNSTAMM CASE.

The case of the United States agent, Salomon Kohnstamm terminated on Saturday last in a verdict of "Guilty," and the prisoner was at once placed in the custody of the Marshal. For more than twenty years a merchant of this city, always in possession of ample means, the business companion and social equal of our wealthiest citizens, the prisoner stooped to the commission of the meanest crimes, and has reaped the bitter fruits of his folly.

Seizing his opportunity in 1861, when our affairs, financial, military, and political, were in confusion, he entered upon a career of crime the results of which were characterized by Judge Nelson in his charge to the Jury as "truly appalling." By degrees gaining confidence in proportion to his success, he first bought claims on the Government at a mere nominal price, then induced ignorant Germans to sign papers in blank, on one false pretext or another (which papers he would cause his clerks to fill up with the items of spurious claims), then caused his victims to sign false affidavits, written in a language foreign to them, and when no more Germans could be found to sign his blanks, he would forge, or cause his accomplices to forge, names of contractors and certifying officers to bills, certificates, and affidavits. It was said by Judge Pierpont, one of the counsel for the prosecution, that Kohnstamm had realized in this way in a period of about two years something more than \$200,000, the whole amount of Government claims which he collected during the period being about \$300,000. In other words, of every three dollars paid him by the Mustering and Disbursing officers in this city, two were obtained on false or forged bills! It was also stated, for the prosecution, that Captain P. S. Larned, U. S. A., one of the Regular officers doing business with him, had been led step by step, by various seductive arts, to pay the prisoner \$100,000 worth of false bills, and then, stung with remorse, had committed suicide at Nahant, after having made a full confession, and sent it to the District-Attorney.

It was attempted, on the part of the defense, to show that Kohnstamm had bought the Pfeiffer claim (one of forty-eight on which he was indicted) ignorant of its character, and a bill of sale purporting to have been executed by Steinle, the officer whose certificate was appended to the bill, to Kohnstamm was produced. But, on the other hand, it was proved that Kohnstamm had been fully and repeatedly warned of the falsity of the claim by the Lieutenant-Colonel of the regiment in question, and that he had made admissions of a nature which fixed his guilty knowledge of the fraud beyond doubt.

The prisoner was represented in court by an array of very able counsel. Beside Messrs. Beebe, Donahue and Marbury, who did the preliminary skirmishing last year, he had Wm. M. Evans, James T. Brady, and ex-Judge Dean, with others. The speeches of Messrs. Dean and Brady for the defense, and John Sedgwick and Judge Pierpont for the Government, were very able, and were listened to with the closest attention by Judge, Jury, and spectators.

In view of the fact that the public treasury has been robbed of a quarter of a million of dollars by this man, and that our staggering load of debt has been thus much increased, the issue of the case is most satisfactory. Not only will he receive the punishment which he so richly deserves, but the example of his punishment will be of immense service. Judge Pierpont truly remarked in his speech that the result of this important prosecution is of more consequence to the preservation of our liberties than the issue of the next battle. Let it once be understood that fraud like Kohnstamm's can go unpunished and unrebuked, and there will be an end to all security of public property and public morals. It is proper to state that it is due to the persis-

ence and determination of Col. Olcott, the Government agent, that the case has been so successfully prosecuted to its final issue.

SUSPENSION OF HOSTILITIES IN DENMARK.

The London Conference of Plenipotentiaries of England, France, Austria, Prussia, Russia, Denmark, Sweden, and the German Confederacy, which assembled in April in order to find a peaceable solution for the Schleswig-Holstein difficulty, succeeded, in its meeting of the 9th of May, in obtaining the consent of both the belligerent parties to a cessation of hostilities. The original proposition of the neutral powers was for an armistice, which the Allies were willing to accept on the condition that the Danes should raise the blockade of the German ports and evacuate the Island of Alsens, in return for which they would withdraw their troops from Jutland. To the Danes, this proposition was less acceptable; but they, it seems, with great reluctance, agreed to a mutual cessation of hostilities, embracing the suspension of the blockade and leaving every belligerent party in possession of the territory occupied by it. This agreement is to last for one month, commencing on the 12th of May. It leaves, as the latest war news indicates, the allied troops in possession of nearly the entire mainland of the former Danish possessions, while almost all the islands, inclusive of Alsens, which belongs to the Duchy of Schleswig, remain to the Danes.

By a curious coincidence, almost at the very hour when this agreement was consented to by the representatives of Denmark, Austria and Prussia, the first naval engagement took place in the German Ocean, and its result was made known by telegraph in London almost simultaneously with the result of the Conference. The Danes, by this engagement, proved to the Allies that at sea they will be a formidable opponent, though on the ultimate issue of the war, it can obviously have no decisive influence.

No trustworthy information has as yet been obtained as to what propositions the mediating Powers will make for a permanent solution of the difficulty. In England, immense efforts are making to prevail upon the Government to cast its whole influence in favor of the demands of Denmark. The Tories are still using the Danish question for impetuous assaults upon the Ministry. They claim, in particular, that it is the interest of England not to let the ports of the two Duchies fall into the hands of any German Power, for, as Mr. Newdegate frankly remarked in the House of Commons, "the establishment of a German fleet means a permanent addition to the naval estimates of England."

The same reason, however, which impels England to espouse the cause of Denmark with an eagerness which could hardly be greater if she were herself involved in the war, repels France and Russia from rushing into the alliance which England is anxiously soliciting. They regard it not as a cause of fear, but quite otherwise, if the supremacy of England at sea should be impaired by changes in the map of Europe. Both Governments are acting with great reserve, and have hitherto refused to encourage in any way the war clamor of England. Notwithstanding all the announcements in the English papers respecting the complete understanding between the English and French Governments, the latter has not yet receded from its proposition for the application of General Suffrage; and, to the great surprise of many, the official paper of St. Petersburg has declared in favor of the same expedient.

In the mean while, the wish of the party which is the most interested in this matter—the people of the two Duchies—is expressed in an unmistakable manner. On the 8th of May, a meeting of delegates from all parts of the two Duchies was held at Rendsburg, at which it was resolved that the people of the Duchies shall firmly maintain their right "to be separated from Denmark, and establish a free Schleswig-Holstein, under the rule of their legitimate Duke, Frederic VIII." The anti-Danish sentiments of the people of the Duchies seem to be generally admitted in England; for we find that none of the papers or Members of Parliament that advocate the cause of Denmark are willing to support the proposition of France for taking the popular vote on the subject.

It will appear from this statement of the present position of the Schleswig-Holstein question, that the mode of its ultimate solution is yet entirely uncertain. Some inferences may be drawn from the language of the official papers of the European Powers; but we know how often inferences of this kind turn out to be incorrect. The fear of a general European war is still extensively entertained, and every Government of Europe still finds it necessary to be prepared for such an emergency.

FROM BERMUDA—THE *PIRATE FLORIDA*.—A New-York ship burned.—We have Bermuda dates to the 15th. The Rebel steamer *Florida* sailed from Bermuda on the 14th, after landing an officer who was sick, and stood to the northward. She reported having burned a New-York ship from Calico about three weeks previous, and sent her crew to England on a foreign vessel.

CITY MORTALITY.—The deaths in the city last week, as reported by the City Inspector, were 414, or a decrease of 89. For details see official report in another column.

CITY GOVERNMENT.—Neither branch of the Common Council held a meeting yesterday, for want of a quorum. Both adjourned without day.

WM. W. H. FRY'S NEW OPERA.—It is the opinion of every one who have conversed with, who saw Mr. Fry's new opera, "Emeralda," that it was more superbly put upon the stage than any musical or dramatic work in this country for the past twenty years. It is spoken of as admirable in every department. All unite upon the grandeur and beauty of the scenery, the dresses, and appointments, and the wonderful care bestowed upon the details, and although there is some difference of opinion as to the merits of the music, the majority of opinion is strongly in its favor. Why cannot this opera be produced at once in New-York? It would be quite possible to transport the scenery and properties from Philadelphia here; the singers are all up in their parts, a large proportion of the orchestra have played the music there, so that there would scarcely be any preparation necessary. Under the energetic direction of Mr. Harrison it could be brought out in three days, and we are satisfied that, if it is as good every way as they say it is, it would attract overflowing audiences for six nights at least, which would supply pay all who might be concerned.

Cannot this be done, Mr. Harrison or Mr. Maretzky? The public feeling certainly demands that Mr. Fry's "Emeralda" should be heard in New-York. Who, then, will afford us an opportunity? [Watson's Art Journal.]

AMUSEMENTS.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.—A new English comedy, entitled "Paul's Return," was last evening performed for the first time at this theatre. When originally produced in London, a few months ago, its success was sufficient to provoke those amiable accusations of wholesale piracy to which the virtuous English critic is always roused upon occasions of prosperous dramatic novelty. Mr. Watts Phillips indignantly repudiated the charge of theft (or adaptation) and claimed the credit of originality for every line of "Paul's Return." Its reception in New-York last evening was not sufficiently brilliant to make the authorship a matter of its slightest public interest. The writer's name will be remembered only as that of a gentleman who bored a intelligent audience almost beyond endurance during two weary and funeral hours. A less happy first night—setting aside actual failures, among which this representation certainly could not be reckoned—no one would remember to have seen.

"Paul's Return" belongs to the class of *farces*, comedy, of which "Still Waters Run Deep" is probably the best example. It represents an easy and agreeable course of view, during two acts and a fraction, which is at last interrupted by the stern influence of a pathetic morality, and turned abruptly into virtuous triumphant channels. Without being especially free or striking, the materials of the comedy are laughably pleasant, and are wrought together with considerable dexterity. But the language is so ponderous and overstrained, that nothing but the utmost naturalness of manner and felicity of expression on the part of the actors can maintain an unbroken interest. These were not vouchsafed at the Olympic. On the contrary, the stilted and artificial character of the dialogue was heightened, rather than otherwise. The occupants of the stage were at times Lady Macbeths in moans and sighs, Richard the Thirds and Hamlets in pangs, Cardinal Wolseys in white neck-ties. The personations were often those of tumbulous melodrama, instead of easy unaffected comedy, which they should have been. With one or two exceptions which we shall presently indicate the behavior of the ladies and gentlemen concerned was that of a collection of respectable pimps, planters here and there in irregular groups, and gazing forth streams of bathos undistilled.

The performance which received the most applause was that of the part of Abel Honeydew, a rich and stealthy rogue, by Mr. Stoddart. If the audience has been more critical the applause would not have been bestowed. The name of the character, the sentiment he utters, his own description of his personal demeanor indicated a totally different person from that represented by Mr. Stoddart. Honeydew is the craftiest of villains, an insidious and lubricious as Urich Heep. He is constantly declaring that he never suffers himself to be angrily roused, or to forget his self-possession, and yet Mr. Stoddart, whenever the opportunity could be imagined, raved and rent the air like a madman. The quieter portions of his performance were excellent, and contrasted singularly with the inaccuracy of the remainder. Next to Mr. Stoddart, Mr. Barron (who made his first appearance at this theatre) was most frequently complimented by the house. We give Mr. Barron credit for earnestness, and a sincere desire to faithfully satisfy the conditions of his part; but earnestness in the wrong direction is only an aggravation, and sincerity misapplied is almost as bad as unconscientiousness. Mr. Barron showed on the happy, honest, simple nature of Paul a farid glare of tragedy, which utterly perverted it from the author's obvious intention. Instead of modern manliness, he gave us the stale baronies of mediæval melodrama. And we feel bound to go farther in Mr. Barron's case and say—not unkindly, we trust—that even his melodrama was not good. It was largely monotonous throughout. Mr. Barron has three unimpeachable gestures; the first is the stretching forward of one arm in a direct right angle to the body; the second is the stretching forward of both arms in direct right angles to the body; the third is the projection of one arm and the folding of the other across the upper part of the chest. From these Mr. Barron never varies, which would not be objectionable if only three acts of ideas had to be conveyed in the course of an evening; but when we see the same attitudes doing duty for despair and hope, love and anger, malice and supplication, mirth and sadness, not to speak of a variety of other emotions, the spectator begins to feel the need of variety. We cannot, therefore, follow the audience in complimenting Mr. Barron.

Mr. G. H. Clarke, however, we can sincerely praise. His personation of the trifling and not over-interesting part of a mild-brained spooney young gentleman, timidly in love, and subject to family scolding, was neatly and faithfully done. It was the best performance of the evening—which, by the way, is not at all an over-highly expressed expression of approval. Miss Irving, at first gracefully falling into Mr. Barron's error at the close, Mr. Sedley Brown had little to do, but did that little carefully. Of the others in the cast we do not care to speak particularly. Their share in the representation was distinguished by a house like species of exuberance. The audience seemed moderately pleased, and some of the principal performers received special tokens of approbation. "Paul's Return" will be repeated every evening this week.

Mr. Thomas Baker's orchestra played last evening, among other agreeable selections of music, a capital arrangement of some of the best melodies from Offenbach's "Orpheus aux Enfers," with an air from Gluck's "Orpheus" intermingled. Offenbach is always welcome, even though only in an orchestral form.

WINTER GARDEN.—The burlesque of "Fra Diavolo" is not new, but it is one of the best ever written, and always welcome on that account. Especially welcome when the principal character is as well represented as by Mr. W. J. Florence. Better burlesque acting than Mr. Florence's is not often seen, and the consequences of his various scenes, that of the sword combat, last evening, the evening of the greatest possible merit. "Fra Diavolo" was in all respects very fairly played. But Mr. Florence is, of course, in pieces of this kind, the particular attraction. There will be no change for the present in the bill at the Winter Garden.

Gov. Seymour and the Late Arrests.

ALBANY, May 22, 1864. Gov. Seymour has written a letter to the District Attorney of New-York, directing him to procure indictments against all who were engaged in the seizure of the offices of *The Journal of Commerce* and *The N. Y. World*.

From San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Thursday, May 19, 1864. Acapulco advices of the 12th instant say that the French occupy but a narrow line from San Blas to Vera Cruz and Tampico.

It is surmised that the French Admiral does not require to occupy any other Pacific ports because he would be unable to keep up communication with the interior. The steamer *Golden City* has been libeled for landing goods without a permit.

There have been few arrivals of general merchandise lately. The markets generally are flat; grain is easier. Arrived, ships Victor, from Corval, Rattler, from Boston; and Fleet Wind, from Rio de Janeiro. Sailed, ships Haze for New-York, and Resolute for Baker's Island.

SAN FRANCISCO, Friday, May 20, 1864.

The imports of general merchandise both from foreign and domestic ports continue to pour in at a fearful rate of increase, filling our bonded and private warehouses to repletion and rendering markets for the most part dull, and reducing prices far below the cost of importation.

An enthusiastic meeting was held at Sacramento yesterday, at which a large sum of money was realized. The Chamber of Commerce have forwarded a remonstrance against the mining law.

Arrived, ships, from London, Bordeaux; Fleet Wind, from Corval, Rattler, from Boston; and Fleet Wind, from Rio de Janeiro. Sailed, ships Haze for New-York, and Resolute for Baker's Island.

SAVED FROM THE SEA.—A French schooner, the *Albatros*, was wrecked on the coast of California, about the 10th inst. A severe shock of earthquake last evening shook the houses and frightened the people, but did no damage. The French troops are more promising since the rains, which have been heavy, and have reached only about half the crop, when it was thought it would only reach a quarter of it.